

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



DAVID AZBELL
PRESS SECRETARY

PEPPER BRYARS
DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY

STATE OF ALABAMA

For Immediate Release
July 10, 2003

Contact: David Azbell
(334) 242-7150

TROOPER CLASS 2003-A GRADUATES

ADDING 26 NEW TROOPERS TO RANKS OF HIGHWAY PATROL

MONTGOMERY — Col. W.M. Coppage, Alabama Department of Public Safety director, administered the oath of office to commission 26 new Alabama state troopers during graduation ceremonies in Montgomery Thursday, July 10. Attorney General Bill Pryor addressed the graduates as guest speaker.

“The fundamental responsibility of government is to protect and serve its citizens, and no other government official fulfills that responsibility like a state trooper,” Riley said. “They ensure that our roadways are safe, and when they’re not, they place themselves between us and danger. These new troopers have our prayers and our appreciation.”

During the graduation exercises, class awards went to the following: Mark A. Stone received the Academic Award for achieving the highest overall grade point average; Johnny L. Landingham received the Firearms Award for demonstrating the highest level of ability, knowledge and safety in firearms training; John T. Underwood received the Fitness Award for achieving the highest level of physical fitness; and Michael B. Wilson received the Pursuit/Highway Response Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving.

The Commander’s Award, presented for best overall performance, went to Phillip R. Faulkner for exhibiting outstanding leadership, professionalism and dedication to Class 2003-A and the Department of Public Safety, while maintaining a high academic average.

In swearing in Alabama’s newest state troopers, Coppage said, “As members of the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Highway Patrol Division, you join a proud heritage of courtesy, service and protection to the people of Alabama. I congratulate you for your hard work at the training academy, and I wish you all the best as you begin your careers as Alabama state troopers.”

Each of the new troopers completed 22 weeks of training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma in preparation for initial duty assignments in the Highway Patrol Division. After reporting to trooper post locations throughout Alabama, they will begin an 10-week field training and evaluation program under the supervision of veteran state troopers.

A list of the members of Class 2003-A and their post assignments is attached:

State Trooper Class 2003-A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>County</u>
James R. Bradford	Huntsville	Madison
Tony R. Brewer	Birmingham	Walker
Issac D. Durant	Birmingham	Jefferson
Phillip R. Faulkner	Opelika	Macon
Kipplin C. Greene	Birmingham	Blount
Jason R. Harris	Decatur	Lawrence
Alex F. Huntley	Opelika	Macon
Justin G. Jones	Decatur	Morgan
Jeffrey E. Jordan	Decatur	Lawrence
Charles F. Kistler	Decatur	Morgan
Johnny L. Landingham	Opelika	Russell
John D. Lewis	Jacksonville	Calhoun
James B. Nolin	Jacksonville	Cleburne
Verny J. Obregon	Opelika	Russell
Michael T. Owens	Jacksonville	Etowah
George B. Roe	Decatur	Cullman
Nicholas A. Serritelli	Birmingham	Shelby
Mark A. Stone	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
James O. Strickland	Selma	Perry
Jeffrey T. Sullivan	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Jimmie L. Taite	Decatur	Cullman
Sigmund S. Taylor	Jacksonville	Calhoun
John T. Underwood	Birmingham	Blount
Justin L. Watson	Birmingham	Shelby
Michael B. Wilson	Decatur	Limestone
Robert G. Woodruff	Opelika	Lee

###